

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicle navigation system comprising:

- 5 a database of locations;
 a display displaying a plurality of icons, each associated with at least
one of said locations in said database; and
 a user input device selectively activating one of said plurality of icons,
said display animating said activated icon in response to selection of the
10 activated icon by the user input device.

2. The vehicle navigation system of Claim 1 further including

- a system for determining the position of the vehicle relative to said
database;
15 said user input device selecting a desired destination relative to said
database;
 a system for determining a route from said database between a position
of the vehicle to said desired destination.

20 3. The vehicle navigation system of Claim 1 wherein each said icon is
associated with a group of locations in said database, said user input device
selecting a desired destination from among said locations associated with said
group associated with said activated icon.

25 4. The vehicle navigation system of Claim 1 further including:
 a base frame comprising information for displaying a first icon of said
plurality of icons;
 at least one transition file comprising information for changing the
display of said first icon, said display first displaying said first icon based
30 upon said base frame and subsequently changing said display of said first icon

11. A method for operating a graphical user interface in a vehicle navigation system including the steps of:

- a) displaying a plurality of icons on a display;
- b) animating at least one of the plurality of icons on the display;
- c) selecting at least one of the animated icons.

5 12. The method of Claim 11 further including the steps of:

 d) displaying said icon based upon a base frame comprising information
for displaying said plurality of pixels;

 e) changing said display of said icon based upon a transition file
comprising information for displaying a subset of said plurality of pixels, less
10 than all of said plurality of pixels.

13. The method of claim 12 further including the steps of:

 f) in said step b), displaying a first frame comprising said base frame;

 g) after said step f), displaying a second frame comprising said base
15 frame as modified according to said transition file.

14. The method of Claim 13 further including the steps of:

 associating each of said plurality of icons with at least one destination;
and

20 selecting a destination associated with said at least one of the animated
icons selected in said step c).

15. The method of Claim 11 further including the steps of:

 determining a current position;

25 selecting said at least one of said plurality of icons animated in said
step b);

 selecting a desired destination associated with said at least one of said
plurality of icons; and

30 determining a route from said current position to said desired
destination.

16. The method of Claim 11 further including the steps of:
- d) displaying an associated screen in response to said step c);
 - e) displaying a smaller version of the at least one icon on the associated screen.